



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

Northeast Regional Office • 150 Presidential Way Woburn, MA 01801 • 978-694-3200

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URGENT LEGAL MATTER: PROMPT ACTION NECESSARY

Certified Mail No: 7022 2410 0000 7501 3453

October 10, 2023

Prolerized New England Company, LLC
299 SW Clay Street
Portland, OR 97214

RE: SALEM-
14 Barnes Road,
12 Cedar Road, & 14 Cedar Road
Notice of Responsibility
RTN 3-38273

NOTICE OF RESPONSIBILITY PER M.G.L. c.21E & 310 CMR 40.0000, the MASSACHUSETTS CONTINGENCY PLAN

*THIS IS AN IMPORTANT NOTICE. FAILURE TO TAKE ADEQUATE ACTION IN RESPONSE
TO THIS NOTICE COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS LEGAL CONSEQUENCES.*

Dear Sir/Madam,

On August 7, 2023, at 5:11 p.m., the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) received oral notification of a release/threat of release of Oil/Hazardous Material at the subject location, which requires one or more Response Actions. Based on this information, MassDEP has reason to believe that the subject properties or portion(s) thereof are a disposal site as defined in the Massachusetts Oil and Hazardous Material Release Prevention and Response Act, M.G.L. c. 21E and the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP), 310 CMR 40.0000. M.G.L. c.21E and the MCP govern the assessment and cleanup of Disposal Sites.

Analytical results of soil testing indicate total chromium and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) are present in soil at concentrations exceeding a Could Pose Imminent Hazard condition, as described in 310 CMR40.0321(2)(b). According to information in MassDEP's files, 12 Cedar Road, 14 Cedar Road, and 14 Barnes Road, Salem, Massachusetts (collectively, the Site) were the location of the disposal of automotive shredder residue (ASR). MassDEP files contain information indicating that ASR, dumped at the Site in or about the 1970s, was from Prolerized

This information is available in alternate format. Please contact Melixza Esenyie at 617-626-1282.

TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370

MassDEP Website: www.mass.gov/dep

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New England Company, LLC (Prolerized)¹. Through environmental testing, ASR has been identified in several areas across the Site at ground level and to depths of up to 35 feet below grade.

The purpose of this notice is to inform you (as used in this letter "you" refers to Prolerized New England Company, LLC) of your legal responsibilities under state law for assessing and/or remediating the subject release. For purposes of this notice, the terms and phrases used herein shall have the meaning ascribed to them by the MCP unless the text clearly indicates otherwise.

STATUTORY LIABILITIES

MassDEP also has reason to believe that you are a Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) with liability under M.G.L. c. 21E, Section 5, for Response Action Costs. Section 5 makes the following parties liable to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts: current owners or operators of a site from or at which there is or has been a release/threat of release of oil or hazardous material; any person who owned or operated a site at the time hazardous material was stored or disposed of; any person who arranged for the transport, disposal, storage or treatment of hazardous material to or at a site; any person who transported hazardous material to a transport, disposal, storage or treatment site from which there is or has been a release/threat of release of such material; and any person who otherwise caused or is legally responsible for a release/threat of release of oil or hazardous material at a site.

This liability is "strict" meaning that it is not based on fault but solely on your status as owner, operator, generator, transporter or disposer. It is also "joint and several", meaning that you may be liable for all response action costs incurred at the site, regardless of the existence of any other liable parties.

The MCP requires responsible parties to take necessary Response Actions at properties where there is or has been a release or threat of release of oil and/or hazardous material. If you do not take the necessary Response Actions or fail to perform them in an appropriate and timely manner, MassDEP is authorized by M.G.L. c. 21E to have the work performed by its contractors. By taking such actions, you can avoid liability for Response Action Costs incurred by MassDEP and its contractors in performing these actions, and any sanctions, which may be imposed, for failure to perform Response Actions under the MCP.

You may be liable for up to three (3) times all Response Action Costs incurred by MassDEP. Response Action Costs include, without limitation, the cost of direct hours spent by MassDEP employees arranging for response actions or overseeing work performed by persons other than MassDEP or its contractors, expenses incurred by MassDEP in support of those direct hours, and payments to MassDEP's contractors. (For more detail on cost liability, see 310 CMR 40.1200.)

¹ According to your July 7, 2023 Response to MassDEP's May 30, 2023 Request for Information: "Prolerized New England Company, LLC ("PNE") was formerly a New York General Partnership organized on October 3, 1965 which was converted to a Delaware limited liability company in March 2006. PNE is an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc. ("SSI"), an Oregon corporation."

MassDEP may also assess interest on costs incurred at the rate of twelve percent (12%), compounded annually. To secure payment of this debt, the Commonwealth may place liens on all of your property in the Commonwealth. To recover the debt, the Commonwealth may foreclose on these liens or the Attorney General may bring legal action against you. In addition to your liability for up to three (3) times all response action costs incurred by MassDEP, you may also be liable to the Commonwealth for damages to natural resources caused by the release. Civil and criminal liability may also be imposed under M.G.L. c. 21E, § 11, and civil administrative penalties may be imposed under M.G.L. c. 21A, § 16 for each violation of M.G.L. c. 21E, the MCP, or any order, permit or approval issued hereunder.

NECESSARY RESPONSE ACTIONS

The subject site shall not be deemed to have all the necessary and required Response Actions taken unless and until all Substantial Hazards presented by the site have been eliminated and a level of No Significant Risk exists or has been achieved in compliance with M.G.L. c. 21E and the MCP. In addition, the MCP requires persons undertaking Response Actions at Disposal Sites to perform Immediate Response Actions (IRAs) in response to "sudden releases", Imminent Hazards and Substantial Release Migration. Such persons must continue to evaluate the need for IRAs and notify MassDEP immediately if such a need exists.

MassDEP has determined that an IRA is necessary to respond to a Could Pose Imminent Hazard condition at the subject site. Pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0426(2), an Imminent Hazard Evaluation shall be initiated within 14 days of obtaining knowledge of a Could Pose Imminent Hazard Condition.

MassDEP reminds you that IRAs must include site assessment activities necessary to evaluate potential Imminent Hazard (IH), Substantial Release Migration (SRM), and Critical Exposure Pathway (CEP) conditions.

You must employ or engage a Licensed Site Professional (LSP) to manage, supervise or actually perform the necessary response actions at the subject site. In addition, the MCP requires persons undertaking response actions at a disposal site submit to MassDEP a Permanent Solution Statement prepared by an LSP in accordance with 310 CMR 40.1000 upon determining that a level of No Significant Risk already exists or has been achieved at a disposal site or portion thereof. You may obtain a list of the names and addresses of these licensed professionals from the Board of Registration of Hazardous Waste Site Cleanup Professionals at (617) 556-1091 or <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/lsp/>.

There are several other submittals required by the MCP which are related to release notification and/or Response Actions that may be conducted at the subject site in addition to a Permanent Solution Statement that, unless otherwise specified by MassDEP, must be provided to MassDEP within specific regulatory timeframes. The submittals are as follows:

- (1) A Release Notification Form (RNF) must be submitted to MassDEP pursuant to section 310 CMR 40.0333 within 60 calendar days of the initial date of oral notification to MassDEP of a release pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0300 or from the date MassDEP issues a

Notice of Responsibility (NOR), whichever occurs earlier. The RNF can either be submitted electronically or using the PDF Form at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/cleanup/approvals/bwsc-103.pdf>;

- (2) Documentation of an Imminent Hazard Evaluation, completed in accordance with 310 CMR 40.0950, must be submitted to MassDEP within 60 days of obtaining knowledge of the Could Pose Imminent Hazard condition pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0426(2). The IH Evaluation must include an LSP Opinion as to whether an Imminent Hazard exists at the site and must document all Method 3 Risk Characterization equations and factors used to make such a determination. If a conclusion on the existence of an IH cannot be made within the 60-day timeline, the IH Evaluation must include the following information:
 - (a) a description of investigative efforts that have been made and remain to be taken in order to determine whether an Imminent Hazard to human health actually exists at the site, as well as a timetable for the remaining activities; or
 - (b) a plan to undertake removal and/or containment actions at the site to address those conditions that could pose an Imminent Hazard to human health.
- (3) Unless a Permanent Solution Statement or Downgradient Property Status Submittal is provided to MassDEP earlier, an Immediate Response Action (IRA) Plan prepared in accordance with 310 CMR 40.0420, or an IRA Completion Statement (310 CMR 40.0427) must be submitted to MassDEP within 60 calendar days of the initial date of oral notification to MassDEP of a release pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0300 or from the date MassDEP issues an NOR, whichever occurs earlier; and
- (4) Unless a Permanent Solution Statement or Downgradient Property Status Submittal is provided to MassDEP earlier, a completed Tier Classification Submittal pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0510 must be submitted within one year of the initial date of notification of a release pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0300 or from the date MassDEP issues an NOR, whichever occurs earlier or as otherwise specified by the Department in an Interim Deadline or order issued pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0501 (2).
- (5) Pursuant to MassDEP's "Timely Action Schedule and Fee Provisions", 310 CMR 4.00, the appropriate fee must be included with a Permanent Solution Statement that is submitted to MassDEP more than 120 calendar days after the initial date of oral notification to MassDEP of a release pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0300, or more than 120 calendar days after the date MassDEP issues an NOR, whichever occurs earlier, and before Tier Classification. A fee is not required for a Permanent Solution Statement submitted to MassDEP within 120 days of the date of oral notification to MassDEP, or within 120 days of the date MassDEP issues an NOR, whichever date occurs earlier, or after Tier Classification.

It should be noted that asbestos and asbestos containing material (ACM) have been reported to be present in soil at nearby properties located at 355-373 Highland Avenue and within areas of “dumping/landfilling” of automotive shredder waste at 373 Highland Avenue (Lot 300B) and 10 Cedar Road (Lot 308B). In addition, during a Site inspection by MassDEP on August 28, 2023,

asbestos-containing vinyl floor tiles were identified within the wooded area of 16 Barnes Road. As such, MassDEP believes there is the likelihood that ACM may be present in soils elsewhere at the Site. It will be necessary to have a licensed asbestos inspector present during preliminary Response Actions to assess for the presence of ACM throughout the Site. If ACM is detected, you must comply with all MCP requirements and all other applicable regulatory requirements, including, but not limited to the Massachusetts Clean Air Act, G.L. c. 111, §§ 142A-O ("CAA") and its regulations at 310 C.M.R. § 7.15 ("Asbestos Regulations").

It is important to note that you must dispose of any Remediation Waste generated at the subject location in accordance with 310 CMR 40.0030 including, without limitation, contaminated soil and/or debris. Any Bill of Lading accompanying such waste must bear the seal and signature of an LSP or, if the response action is performed under the direct supervision of MassDEP, the signature of an authorized representative of MassDEP.

IDENTIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL POTENTIALLY RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

MassDEP has identified J.L. Realty Trust and Barnes Road Trust as additional Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) associated with the subject Disposal Site. M.G.L. c.21E liability is "strict," meaning it is not based on fault, but solely on a person's status as an owner, operator, generator, transporter or disposer. It is also joint and several, meaning that a person may be liable for all response action costs incurred at the Site, regardless of the existence of any other liable parties.

In light of this, similar Notices of Responsibility have been sent to J.L. Realty Trust and Barnes Road Trust.

MassDEP encourages all PRPs referenced in this Notice to contact one another and take prompt action to respond to this Notice. By taking prompt action, you may significantly lower your assessment and cleanup costs and avoid the imposition of, or reduce the amount of, certain annual compliance fees for response actions payable under 310 CMR 4.00.

If you have any questions relative to this notice, you should contact Erik Johnson by email at Erik.Johnson@mass.gov, at the letterhead address or by calling (781) 400-4378. All future communications regarding this release should reference the Release Tracking Number contained in the subject block of this letter.

Sincerely,



Joanne Fagan
Section Chief, Brownfields/Risk Reduction
Bureau of Waste Site Clean-up – MassDEP
Northeast Regional Office

CC:

CT Corporation System, 155 Federal St, Ste. 700, Boston MA 02110
Certified Mail No: 7022 2410 0000 7501 3460

eCC:

David Greenbaum, RS., Public Health Agent, Board of Health, City of Salem,
dgreenbaum@salem.com

Elizabeth Rennard, City Solicitor, City of Salem, brennard@salem.com

Peter Durning, Esq., Burns & Levinson LLP, pdurning@burnslev.com

Jamy Madeja, Esq., Buchanan & Associates, jmadeja@buchananassociated.com

Michael Bricher, LSP of Record, Blackstone Environmental Solutions, mbricher@bes-env.com
MassDEP data entry/file (NOR / Issued)

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PS Form 3800, April 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9047 See Reverse for Instructions	

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PS Form 3800, April 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9047 See Reverse for Instructions	

Please Be Aware of MassDEP Fees

Unless response actions at this site are completed within one year of the release notification date, you will be billed an Annual Compliance Assurance Fee by MassDEP for each year thereafter up to and including the year in which a Permanent Solution is achieved and filed for this disposal site. Annual Compliance Assurance Fees cover a portion of MassDEP's costs for ensuring compliance of response actions with the Massachusetts Contingency Plan. Annual Compliance Assurance Fees are issued pursuant to M.G.L. chapter 21E Section 3B and 310 CMR 4.00, the *Timely Action Schedule and Fee Provisions*. Fee categories and rates are summarized as shown below. Fees invoiced by MassDEP are considered a debt to the Commonwealth. Unpaid fee invoices are typically referred for collection action. Contact your Licensed Site Professional to discuss what is necessary to *complete the response actions required for this site as quickly as possible*. For more information on the Annual Compliance Assurance Fees that apply in your case, see the "Fees and Payments" entry at <https://www.mass.gov/lists/site-cleanup-fact-sheets> or contact your Licensed Site Professional or the MassDEP Fee inquiry line at (617) 292-5545.

A thorough & timely cleanup will result in fewer MassDEP Fees.

SUMMARY OF MassDEP ANNUAL COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE FEES

Type	Fee Category	Timing of Submittal (for One-Time fees)			Fee Rate	
		Within 120 days of initial notification	After 120 days and prior to Tier Classification	After Tier Classification	Non-Homeowner	Homeowner ³
One-Time Fees ¹	Permanent Solution	---	Permanent Solution Fee	See Note ⁴	\$1,470	\$735
	RAM Plan	RAM Fee	RAM Fee	---	\$980	\$490
	DPS	DPS Fee	DPS Fee	---	\$1,965	\$1,965
	Notice of AUL	AUL Fee	AUL Fee	AUL Fee ⁵	\$2,000	\$1,000
Regular Annual Fees ²	Tier ID				\$4,915	\$2,455
	Tier I				\$4,320	\$1,225
	Tier II				\$2,455	\$1,225
	Temporary Solution				\$980	\$490
	Phase V				\$980	\$490

Notes: 1. One-Time Fees must be paid when submittal is made.

2. Regular Annual Fees are billed by MassDEP after Tier Classification; Fee Category is based on Status of site on each Annual Status Date. BWSC 12-5-2018

3. Completed Homeowner Certification Form BWSC120 is required to qualify for lower Homeowner fee rates.

4. One-Time Permanent Solution Fee also applies if site is Tier ID and submittal is made within first 90 days after initial Status Date.

5. One-Time AUL Fee is applicable for a Notice of AUL filed prior to or concurrent with a Permanent Solution.